

Tunnel Found Under Sphinx

A team of Japanese scientists from Waseda University have confirmed the existence of an underground chamber six feet east of the Sphinx. They used an electro-magnetic scanner to beam sound waves into the ground last year; now computer analysis of the data in Tokyo has confirmed their discovery and suggests that the chamber contains stone objects.

The Waseda University team also discovered two cavities in the Great Pyramid behind what is called the Queen's Chamber and were the first to confirm the existence of a recently discovered wooden funerary boat in a pit in the same area.

However, they had a mysterious equipment failure when testing inside two chambers discovered by a French team in 1986 (See NEXUS #1), which made a computer readout impossible.

The Sphinx probably represents King Khafren as the Great Pyramid is regarded as the tomb of his father, King Khufu, whose funerary treasure has never been found.

- via American Dowser



Cosmic Flu

A Chinese engineer who has spent 20 years investigating the effects of cosmic rays has demonstrated that each of the five major Chinese outbreaks of influenza in the last 50 years coincided with peak periods of cosmic rays reaching Earth.

Yu Zhendong of Hubei Province correctly predicted that a flu epidemic would sweep China in early 1984.

Chinese People's Daily

Around the World in 80 Minutes

A revolutionary space shuttle has been designed to fly from Sydney to London in 45 minutes by sucking up its fuel from the atmosphere.

"We are in danger of losing another typical British and brilliantly simple aerospace concept to foreign interests unless we are extremely careful," said Prince Charles, criticising the British Government for failing to back the revolutionary Horizontal Takeoff and Landing (Hotol) spacecraft.

Hotol takes off and lands like an airplane and can fly from Sydney to London - or space stations - by going into Earth orbit. Due to government vacillation Mr Alan Bond, designer of Hotol's engines, is prepared to risk jail by ignoring British security classifications on his patents to tell people how his engine



works, dealing with the US if necessary. Japan and West Germany are also interested.

The engine works like a ramjet, using atmospheric oxygen for most of its fuel, starts from a standstill and also switches to work as a rocket in space.

Hotol is competing for the European space market with the French shuttle *Hermes*, *Columbus* and *Ariane V*.

Oil from Plastic

A West German refinery is to turn mounds of worthless plastic into crude oil this year with a pilot recycling plant.

Union Rheinische Braunkohlen Kraftstoff AG (URBK), a refinery owned by West Germany's largest electricity producer, says it can turn 80% of all plastic waste into synthetic crude oil through a "clean process".

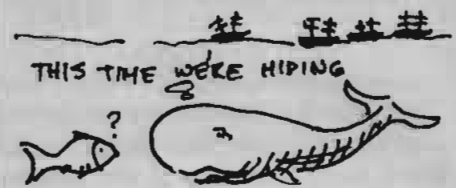
"It does not produce any harmful fumes nor create new problems for the environment," said URBK chemist Mr Dagmar Mertens-Gottselig. Recycled oil would cost about \$US30 a barrel and the system won't be cost effective with current low crude oil prices.

However, next decade when the system is fully operational oil prices will rise as wells in parts of the world dry up and major producers cut output.

URBK has an exclusive worldwide 20-year patent. Even if oil prices don't rise enough next decade, the company expects to make money from plastic waste storage; West German authorities charge ratepayers about \$A155 a tonne for disposal and most is stored.

The pilot plant has an annual capacity of 100,000 tonnes. West Germany imports almost all its crude oil - 67 million tonnes in 1986 alone.

- Reuters



Marine Life Survey Shock

Spotters aboard the First Fleet re-enactment are compiling a survey on marine life to compare with that made on the original 27,000 km voyage. Preliminary findings indicate an alarming fall in numbers of dolphins and whales since the first survey and estimates say that less than a quarter of the sea life present 200 years ago still remains.

The ships' only close encounter with a whale was with a dead sperm whale encountered by the *Bounty*.

Some species of birds, including port egmont hens, some gulls and gannets appear to be missing, but most seabirds have survived well.

Jonathan King, sailing with the re-enactment, said, "I believe as much as 75% of marine life could have disappeared in the past 200 years."

Britain's New Healers

Margaret Thatcher has turned to natural therapies to help overcome neuralgia in the neck and shoulders since suffering a dizzy spell at Buckingham Palace last November.

The treatment was kept secret to avoid suggestions that she was showing signs of stress, but has been revealed to consist of massage oils containing rosemary and thyme extracts.

Controlled clinical trials on faith healing, placebos and the "loving touch" in healing are now underway in three large British hospitals as are healing projects in several London districts.

The newly formed Federation of Healing Organizations wants to establish that faith healing works and if current trials are successful the Confederation will campaign for acceptance as a standard therapy by the National Health Service.

The Royal Family was instrumental in the adoption of homœopathic remedies under National Health and last year Prince Charles, convinced healers have a special role to play in fighting illness, opened a centre where priests, doctors and healers can work together to treat patients.



CONCRETE CANCER

Concrete corrosion threatens about half of Sydney's buildings and will cost \$200 million to repair annually by 1989.

Affecting reinforced concrete particularly, the concrete decay syndrome known as *spalling* occurs when oxygen and moisture reach steel reinforcement, causing it to rust and expand. Surrounding concrete is cracked off high-rise buildings, plummeting to the ground without warning.

North Sydney Mayor Ted Mack, a qualified architect, said the problem is so serious in strata title units that he would not buy one over three storeys.

Major buildings in Sydney which have been repaired for spalling include the Water Board in Bathurst St and St Martin's Tower behind the Q.V.B. which is being clad with aluminium.

Another condition called *alkaline aggregate reaction* is causing problems in two dams in Victoria, a bridge in Western Australia and several industrial buildings. The true life-spans of many of our constructions may be fairly short due to this built-in obsolescence.



YETI EVIDENCE

Tests on six strands of hair found in central and southern China, where sightings of the Yeti have been reported, showed that the hair did not belong to humans or animals, according to the *Wenhui Daily*.



Paranormal Normal

There have been a steep increase in psychic experiences during the 1980s, according to a study by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Centre.

According to the centre, 67% of Americans say they've experienced ESP, compared to 58% when the centre began polling in 1973. 42% report "contact with the dead" (27% in 1973).

"Visions" are up from 8% to 29%, *deja vu* from 59% to 67% and clairvoyance up to 31% from 24%.

Other Gallup polls through the 1980s show 23% of Americans now believe in reincarnation and 43% report an 'unusual spiritual experience'.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's first paranormal festival has been cancelled because performers have withdrawn from the event. The performers had promised to levitate, turn into tigers, enter small bottles and display telekinesis. The reason for the last-minute cancellation was that "harmful, disturbing forces had made them unable to perform," said organiser Amien Budiman.

Biodegradable Plastic

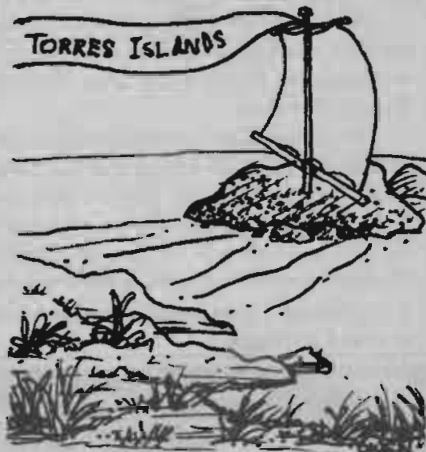
ICI Australia has produced a new a plastic that organically decomposes into harmless gas in weeks.

Biopol, the first truly biodegradable plastic, is made by bacteria fed on renewable materials such as sugar or starch instead of chemicals derived from fossil fuels.

Biopol is broken down by enzymes in the human body, is immunologically neutral and can be used surgically in sutures or as pins to hold broken bones together.

Fibres spun from Biopol can also be used for swabs, dressings or tampons that break down rapidly under bacterial action in sewage systems or compost heaps.

The plastics is about three times as expensive as high-volume, low-cost plastics used in soft drink bottles, etc. But in Britain, ICI has reached a tentative agreement with a major bottle manufacturer to use Biopol - making the polymer cheaper through industry expansion.



TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS TO SECEDE?

Four hundred members of the Coordinating Council of the Torres Strait Islands voted unanimously to secede from the Commonwealth of Australia in January. The Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Gerry Hand, flew to the Islands to discuss the decision and Prime Minister Bob Hawke promised to address the grievances of the Islanders. The secession moves are not supported by the Prime Minister Pias Wingti of Papua New Guinea and have been described as a desperate call for help by Queensland NP Senator Ron Boswell.

COMMUNITIES DECRIMINALISED

Multiple Occupancies - known to some as communities, kibbutzes or communes - have been legalised across shire boundaries throughout NSW, opening private property to hamlet development.

Development applications will have to be submitted to the State Government and local building regulations will still apply. Copies of the legislation are unavailable as we go to press; next issue NEXUS will make an in-depth report on this and other new developments affecting all those on the land.

DAY OF MOURNING

January 26th saw the largest Aboriginal rally since the beginning of white Australian history. An estimated 15,000 Aboriginals travelled from all over the country to attend the Sydney marches, culminating in a rally at Hyde Park.

The demonstrations were peaceful and well-directed. While the majority of Australians see the Bicentenary as a reason for self congratulation or an excuse for a party, Aboriginals see this year as a crucial one in their struggle for justice.

*On Australia Day Burnam Burnam kept his date with fate under the white cliffs of dover, planting the Aboriginal Land Rights flag and claiming the Isle of Britain for the Aboriginal Crown. The only sour note in his trip was sounded by editorial comments in the *London Sun*, a Murdoch publication in which Aboriginals were described as "treacherous and brutal" people adding: "Left alone, the Abos would have wiped themselves out."

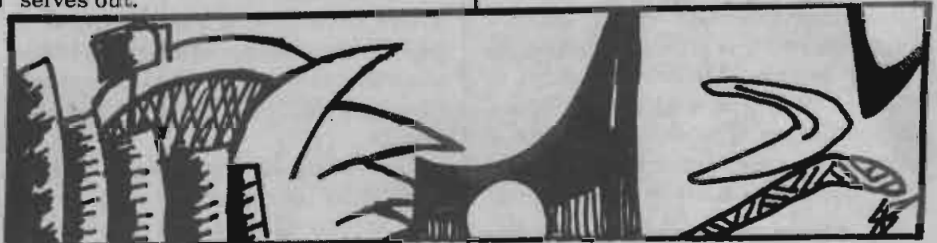
Black Jail Alarm

Aboriginals are 23 times more likely to be jailed than non-Aboriginals according to the first national survey of Aboriginal imprisonment.

Other findings of the Institute of Criminology study show that;

- *Aborigines account for 15% of prison intakes while making up only 1.3% of the population.
- * Four-fifths of Aboriginals jailed committed minor offences and less than 1% were guilty of drug offences.
- * Male Aboriginals in their twenties have a 5% chance of being jailed; in Western Australia the figure is over 8%.
- * Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania have failed to set up State offices for the investigating Royal Commission - Queensland has refused outright.

The Royal Commission into the deaths of over 90 Aboriginals in custody began in late January. Aboriginals estimate that more than 1,000,000 Aboriginal deaths have occurred as a direct result of the European invasion.



THREAT FROM MONOCULTURE

According to Mr Phillip Ruthven of IBIS Corporate Services, many family farms can't compete in an "increasingly competitive international and corporate world." His prediction is that 34,000-42,000 farmers will lose or quit their land over the next five years leading to "a massive and long overdue surrendering of land ownership" to the corporate sector.

Perhaps "surrendering" is a euphemism for driving farmers off their own land; Australian farmers are still among the most efficient in the world.

MALAYSIA ARRESTS GREENIES

Malaysian authorities have extended their arrests of politicians and social activists to include environmentalists opposed to logging. Nine environmentalists were arrested without charges, including three in Sarawak on Borneo island where Penan tribesmen are holding off loggers with blowdarts, bows and arrows and blockades.

Paramilitary police also arrested 40 Penan tribesmen, including the leader of the Penan (see last issue).

Oil Drilling off Sydney

Exploratory oil and gas drilling is set to begin three nautical miles off the coast of Sydney.

A decision is expected to be made by the beginning of March on granting an exploration permit to drill the *Sealion prospect*, which is thought to stretch from Sydney to Port Hacking. In August last year the Federal and NSW Governments invited corporations to bid for drilling in the exploration zone, which stretches thirty miles out from the shore.

"A major oil spill which floated in would render the coastline sterile," according to Milo Dunphy, director of the Total Environment Centre.

"It could wipe out marine life and cripple Sydney's fishing industry."

The project can only be afforded by a big consortium or major oil company, and names of bidders are 'confidential'.

Selective Blindness

According to a recent survey from Griffith University's School of Australian and Environmental Studies, around 90% of farmers believe soil erosion is not a problem on their farms. In the same study, however, 47% consider erosion a major problem on *neighbouring farms* and 88% believe it is a problem in their area of the Darling Downs, where the study was made.

Farmers adopt the same attitude to soil erosion as most people do to cigarettes; they accept the data is probably correct, but say it doesn't apply directly to them.



Britain Helped in Oz Coup

A television documentary to be shown on the A.B.C. in April claims that Britain's security services played a major role in the Whitlam Government's sacking in 1975.

John Pilger, producer of the documentary *The Last Dream*, quotes CIA sources describing Whitlam as a "security risk in his own country", after Whitlam told Washington that US bases were not sacrosanct and that the bases treaty, due for renewal one day before Whitlam's dismissal in 1975, might not be extended.

A Washington-based expert on defence and intelligence claims that dozens of calls were made from the CIA to

MI5 and MI6 to help overthrow the Whitlam government.

Pilger also claims that the former Governor-General Sir John Kerr had previously been associated with two right-wing groups, one CIA funded, and the other a CIA front.

CIA involvement in the Whitlam coup has been documented and even admitted. Whitlam did not learn that Pine Gap was a CIA base until one week before his dismissal, by which time Theodore Shackley of the CIA had destabilised the government and millions of dollars had been transferred to the opposition coalition's campaign funds according to Vic. MP Joan Coxseidge.



Manned Mars Mission Mooted

Earth's longest-orbiting person, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko, says a manned Mars expedition is becoming "more and more realistic".

Aviation Week and Space Technology claimed in December that the White House and NASA were studying a Soviet proposal to use a US space probe for a joint US-Soviet-French exploration of Mars in the 1990s.

New \$2 Coin

The Federal Government is issuing a Bicentennial \$2 coin featuring a wildflower on one side and the head and shoulders of an Aboriginal against the Southern Cross on the other.

The replacement of the \$2 note is upsetting wool and wheat farmers because the old note features John Macarthur, founder of the wool industry, and John Farrer who developed disease-resistant Australian wheat.

NEW VIRUS INFECTS HUMANS

Five farm workers in Argentina have been deliberately infected with a genetically engineered virus in an unauthorised experiment to test a vaccine for bovine rabies. This was disclosed by Mr Jorge Ahumada, an official in Argentina's Health Ministry, to US environmental group *the Foundation on Economic Trends*.

The foundation said it was pressing the US National Institute of Health, which helped fund the experiment, to tighten regulations against releasing potentially dangerous new life forms into the environment.

The experiment was carried out in 1986 near Azul, 350 km south of Buenos Aires. This is the first time humans have been deliberately infected as a result of a virus from recombinant DNA research.

Surviving Earth's Cycles

Amid speculation about world climatic change and the 'Greenhouse Effect', one theory seeks to explain why temperature extremes, freak storms and cyclonic winds are on the rise through a cyclic view of Earth history.

American engineer John D. Hamaker retired to his land in Michigan to work on problems afflicting humanity. Chief among his concerns was that glaciation is inevitable (according to geological and fossil records) when soils run out of minerals - a point that has almost been reached.

Climatic change is occurring rapidly, helped, but not caused, by the Greenhouse Effect - which may turn the temperate zone subarctic and result in the world losing its food supply.

There is something exciting about new ideas which draw upon work in diverse fields and challenge the orthodox. In this case the 'gradualist' view of climate, soil and tectonic change that argues for incremental modifications in planetary conditions - is challenged by a theory that explains the causes of regular ice ages and predicts the onset of the next one. It is possible that we are now about half-way through a 20 year transition from interglacial to glacial conditions!

Soil Depleted

Hamaker's writings focus on the role of soil demineralization. This is the difference between Hamaker and other catastrophe theories - there is no external cause of changes in climate (asteroids, cosmic dust clouds, etc), but the interrelationship of the geophysical systems is such that there is a natural progression from one ice age to the next. Hamaker is convinced that the present interglacial cycle is at its end, and worldwide starvation by 1990 will be the first result.

The Geological Cycle

In his book *The Survival of Civilization* Hamaker describes a grand cycle. Through the tectonic system, compounds containing elements useful to living organisms are raised, as molten rock forms mountains and plateaux, bringing soil-enriching minerals to the Earth's surface. Erosion moves the minerals to lowlands, mainly during glacial periods. The weight of glacial ice forces magma to the surface along volcanic ridges, while glaciers grind the rock and deposit the minerals - the basis for the layer of topsoil.



Volcanic activity also adds large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the atmosphere. Increasing levels of CO₂ are an essential ingredient in conditions necessary for glaciation, through the greenhouse effect of increasing cloud and ice cover at the poles. Over some 85,000 years the ice caps continue to build, then take another 15,000 years to return to the interglacial low.

Glacial runoff waters the surviving vegetation, which slowly consumes the CO₂. The turning point is reached as the temperature of the ocean is lowered by melting ice, giving it a greater capacity to store CO₂. Sea life booms with plenty of CO₂ and minerals supplied from glacier-ground rock, which is returned to the crust as sea floor sediments. As the level of CO₂ drops, the ice fields retreat and vegetation moves north, replacing tundra with northern-latitude then temperate-zone trees in rapid sequence.

The land and water is incredibly rich in the necessary basic elements, the legacy of glaciation. At the climatic optimum, "roughly 4,000 to 8,000 years ago, the land was covered with a massive growth of temperate zone forests, the sea still held an abundance of sea life and the tectonic system was under low pressure". CO₂ increase in the atmosphere is exponential at the end of interglacial periods. 4,000 years ago CO₂ was perhaps as low as 100 ppm (parts per million), compared to 290 ppm in 1890, 304 ppm in 1940, 314 ppm in 1960 and 335 in 1980. The most recent observations are around the 350 ppm level. "The indication is that the CO₂ level has been slowly moving up for 4,000 years toward the level of initiation of glaciation", according to Hamaker.

The Climatic Cycle

Fluctuations in the level of CO₂ determine the changes in climate, but it is living organisms which cause these fluctuations, particularly sea life and especially shellfish, which absorb CO₂. Life depends on a supply of essential elements and compounds that come from the minerals in soil and water. Over the course of the interglacial cycle these are used up, so 20,000 to 25,000 years later there is only a depleted and insufficient amount for extensive and healthy life left; "Glaciation starts because the

minerals are used up in the land and in the sea". The minerals in the soil are the food supply for microorganisms that are the source of protoplasm compounds that support all other life. With their depletion the life system collapses until another glacial cycle is completed and the ecosphere is regenerated.

Weather Changes

Since 1972 weather patterns have become more destructive. Extremes of temperature, rainfall, snow, floods, high winds and tornadoes are now much more common. Changes have also occurred in the climate of the Arctic. Icebergs have increased in size and are drifting further south, while parts of Baffin Island formerly bare in summer are now snow covered year-round. The Antarctic is also expanding; glaciers that were receding between 1911 and 1958 have advanced over 12 miles in the last 20 years. Icebergs are spreading north.

Acid and Fire

Epidemic forest fires indicate an accelerating transition to glacial conditions. In a time of demineralized soils and increasing climatic stress the temperate forests of the world go up in smoke. Again, figures since 1980 seem to confirm this - huge fires in Spain, Greece, Alaska, Russia and North America. Last year the largest fire for millennia raged across northern China consuming thousands of square miles. Detailed data from the US Department of Agriculture is given by Hamaker - an excerpt:

USA	1964-75	1976-78	%Up
Ave # of fires	119,000	207,000	74
Acres burned	2,720,000	3,612,000	33
(both per year)			

Acid rain is another important pre-conditioning factor. The predominantly coniferous (i.e. pine) vegetation that grows on nutrient-poor, mineral-poor and acidic soils burns terrifically and acidifies its surroundings. In the tropics soil depletion and acid rain makes forests more vulnerable to fire until eventually they burn in gigantic conflagrations. At least, what's left of them after the deforestation now happening in

South America, Southeast Asia, Africa and Australia.

"This supporting data strongly confirms ... that there is no longer any shortage of evidence needed for the initiation of intelligent worldwide cooperative action" to reduce CO₂ levels.

The Solution Cycle

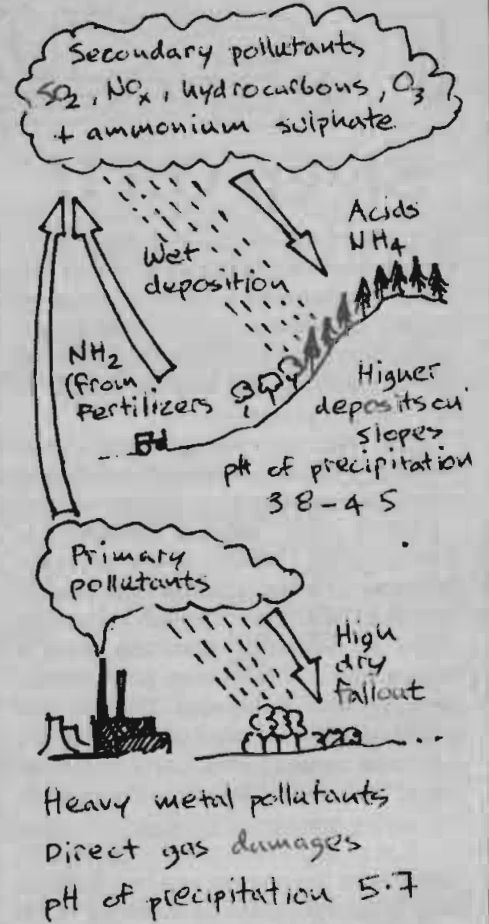
To prevent the onset of the next ice age and achieve a measure of control over the climate (i.e. stabilise it in the current interglacial cycle), Hamaker has five "minimum objectives":

- 1) Stop the use of fossil fuels with their attendant CO₂ buildup as quickly as possible, phasing in viable alternative energy sources now;
- 2) Reforest the planet generally and plant mature tree plantations to replace fossil fuels (every power station should have adjacent plantations for their use);
- 3) Remineralize rivers and coastal waters with ground gravel dust to encourage shellfish growth (prolific consumers of CO₂) by adding ground gravel to sewerage systems;
- 4) Remineralize the forests and jungles to stop them dying and encourage growth by using aircraft to drop gravel dust (requisitioning most of the world's aircraft could be required for this);
- 5) Remineralize cropland to increase food quality and yield to compensate for crop losses to drought in the low latitudes, and cold growing seasons in high latitudes.

Rebuild the Atmosphere

The task is to reverse the buildup in the CO₂ cycle and put carbon back into the earth as quickly as possible. Without a "colossal effort on an international scale" to meet these objectives we can "resign ourselves to death by malnutrition and starvation".

On his own 10 acre plot of land in Michigan, Hamaker added 46 tons per acre of ground glacial gravel. The results were healthier, disease-resistant crops of corn in the first year, that were tested by the US National Laboratory and found superior to other corn grown locally. Anyone involved in tree plantings or crops of any kind



can test this for themselves, especially if land that has been abused and 'clapped out' is being worked. In Australia the average topsoil-loss per acre is currently 20 tonnes per year. Five tonnes per year is considered the maximum tolerable loss.

The theory also holds that malnutrition is a direct result of soil demineralization. The healthy Hunza people, whose valley is watered by milky-coloured glacial melt, contrasts with the disease-prone populations of most of the rest of the world. Food quality is determined by soil quality and our mental and physical wellbeing is the result.

Perhaps the condition of modern mankind - individually and collectively - can be seen as evidence for the Hamaker Theory =

* John D. Hamaker, *The Survival of Civilization*, Hamaker-Weaver Publishers, Route 1, Box 158, Seymour, MO 65746, USA; or P.O. Box 1961, Burlingame, CA 94010, USA - \$15.95)

- Gerard

Sleep On It

Two psychologists believe they have come to a new understanding of dreams. David Fontana and Myra Thomas of Cardiff University believe that dream symbolism often produces vital clues for problem solving and may be crucial to our thought processes.

The two psychologists set word problems for subjects and have them recall dreams, which are then analysed.

Using one complex anagram - SCNACEDELIHNSKR, where the solution was Charles Dickens - the subject intuited the answer through a complex chain of reasoning resulting from a dream about a television programme, *Dempsey and Makepeace*. The star had a hairstyle like a friend of the subject's, a woman named Carol. Carol reminded her of Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, leading to the answer.

It is as if the dreaming mind had already seen the answer and had to find a way to communicate its meaning to the dreamer using associative thinking.

"The interesting thing here," said Fontana, "is the kind of reasoning used to get from the dream symbolism to the anagram solution. It isn't logical linear thinking, it's not lateral thinking and it's not trial and error. It exposes a wholly different pattern of thought which seems much more linked to intuition and creativity."

In a new book, *The Power of Dreams*, Brian Inglis recounts several examples where sleeping on a problem has produced a solution. Among his examples are: Elias Hoe's invention of the lock-stitch sewing machine; Friedrich Kekule's discovery that the chemical structure of benzene is circular; and Niels Bohr's planetary model of atomic structure.

Most people have five dreams a night - remember to remember yours.



Votes Manipulated

The NSW State Government's voting changes in the Upper House give them more power to manipulate the vote and drive small parties out of the field.

Under the new system for this year's NSW State election, people can give the party machines control over preferences by a single mark.

According to Dr Ernie Chaples, head of the University of Sydney's School of Government, the consequences can be seen in the Federal Government's power over the election of minor party senators in 1984 and 1987.

Despite getting 294,000 votes in 1984 - almost 10% of the NSW vote - Peter Garrett of the N.D.P. was not elected.

"Instead, Australian Democrat Colin Mason, with only 223,000 primary votes, was elected because the NSW Labor Party Administrative Committee did not want Garrett in the Senate under any circumstances," Dr Chaples said.

Last year NDP candidate Robert Wood was elected with Labor preferences although he won only 48,238 votes, or 1.5% of the formal vote.

"They even directed preferences to the Liberal and National Party ticket before directing them to Garrett - a fact little known by most Labor voters."

The NSW group voting scheme is even less democratic because the Legislative Council ballot paper will show no party names. Voters can still choose candidates in order of preference if they wish - but over 91% of Labor voters used the single mark-registered option at the 1987 Senate election.

"Any time the choice of candidates at elections is made more confusing for voters and any time choice is transferred from the voter to political party officials, real democracy and popular control of government must suffer," said Dr Chaples.



MILITARY JOYRIDE

Global military expenditure last year - the International Year of Peace - reached \$US930 billion or \$US1.8 million (\$A2.6 million) a minute, according to figures released by Mrs Ruth Leger Sivard, former economic chief of the US Arms Control Agency. In the last few years weapons have become a form of international currency and in many ways have replaced gold as a basis for trade.

A military joyride on credit for the purchase of arms has left a huge debt for future generations to repay, Mrs Sivard said. The US is spending \$303 billion on defence in 1988, \$10 billion more than the 1987 budget. -AP

Soviet Laser Blinds US Pilot

The pilot of a US surveillance aircraft flying over the Hawaiian Islands has been blinded by a laser fired from a Russian ship patrolling a Soviet ICBM splash-down site.

The co-pilot's vision was "disturbed" for ten minutes but preliminary medical checks showed no apparent damage, according to Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, releasing a declassified version of a report on the incident.

The ICBM was fired on a course taking it within one degree of Hawaii.

Believe It Or Not

*The fuel consumed by the Pentagon in a single year would run the entire US public transit system for 22 years.

*The world spends 2,900 times as much on national military forces as on international peace-keeping forces.

*Protecting Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf costs the US Navy \$US365 million a year above normal operating costs - about three times the US budget for energy conservation research.

PVR FOOD THREAT

The Plant Variety Rights (PVR) Advisory Committee is seeking comment from companies and the public on the immediate inclusion of the following:

Rose (*Rosa*), Apple (*Malus*), Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthos*), Phalaris (*Paquatica*), Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), Cotton (*Gossypium*), Rape (*Brassica napus*) and Macadamia. These plants will be used by the committee and public for experience in introducing PVR to cover a wide range of plant types. The committee is advising the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy on plants to be included in the new PVR Act (1987).

This means that private companies will be given patents and complete control over these varieties - and ultimately all plants. Act now! Write and express your opinion to your relevant State and Federal Ministers.

PVR is a nasty piece of dangerous legislation vilified in other countries where it has been introduced. It puts our food supply in the hands of chemical companies who are removing original primary-strain seeds from supply and leaving us with sterile, chemical-reliant hybrids.

Our original food strains are becoming extinct in a disastrous depletion of the gene-pool because of PVR.



Hunger Amid Plenty

Twenty million Americans - over 8% of the US population - go hungry and suffer from malnutrition every day, according to a report by the Physician's Task Force on Hunger. Task force head Professor Larry Brown of Harvard University said, "People obviously aren't dropping like flies. But if you look at Census Bureau data on household income, you find people can't cope."

Worst Earthquakes in Oz History

Local Aboriginals fled into the desert as Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory was struck by the worst series of earthquakes in Australia's recorded history on January 23rd.

"Many have just packed up and moved out," said local police Sergeant Garner. Two of four major quakes were above 7 on the Richter scale - one was at 7.3 - and were described by Dr David Denham, head of seismic research at the Bureau of Mineral Resources in Canberra, as "most unusual. This is of interest on a world scale."

The tremors, centred 40km from Tennant Ck, were felt in Mt Isa and as far away as Perth, Adelaide and Cairns, where curtains and hanging plants swayed in the new Hilton International Hotel. They would have caused severe damage near any major population

centre, and followed large earthquakes in Niugini in the previous month, some of which registered 7.8 on the exponential Richter scale.

Hundreds of aftershocks followed the second major quake, which is believed to have created a 40km long and one metre high ridge or fault line.

"The larger the earthquake... the longer the activity continues," Dr Denham said, "because the fault that is ruptured by the major earthquake probably still is not in equilibrium with the surrounding rocks. The aftershocks are small adjustments."

"I would expect this sequence to go on for at least a year, but the intensity will diminish significantly. At the end of 12 months they will get an earthquake a day. No-one will feel it, but it will be recorded on instruments."

DEATH STARS BRING LIFE

All the elements in the universe heavier than iron - those with more than 25 protons in their nucleus - were produced in exploding stars.

Detection of gamma radiation from the thermonuclear fusion of Supernova 1987-A, whose light reached the Earth in February last year, has confirmed this 20-year-old theory according to Tom Prince, astrophysicist at the California Institute of Technology.

"Just about everything we see around us - such as the iron in your car - was thrown out from a supernova."

"We wouldn't have life as we know it without the production of these heavy elements in supernovas," said Gerald Share, Naval Research Laboratory astrophysicist.

It's likely the newborn universe was composed almost completely of hydrogen and helium, which later fused in the intense pressure and heat inside stars to transmute into all the other elements that exist today.

Many scientists now believe we inhabit a third-generation solar system formed from the floating detritus of two previous generations of suns.

1987-A exploded 160,000 years ago and expanded to shine out like a beacon in the Large Magellanic Cloud in February last year.

BREATHING PLANET

Scientists in Phoenix, Arizona have discovered that ancient air trapped in amber for 80 million years contained 32% oxygen - compared to today's 21%. Samples dating back 25 million years, however, proved to contain only 15% oxygen.



New World Order?

Two leading Soviet economists claim that a new international economic order inspired by Soviet economic reforms and successful arms control agreements is now possible.

Mr Abel Aganbegyan, top economic adviser to Soviet leader Mr Gorbachev and Mr Stepan Sitaryan, deputy chief of the Soviet State Planning Commission, raised the possibilities of a freely convertible rouble and joint US-USSR humanitarian assistance to developing countries at a Washington meeting in December.

Mr Aganbegyan said Moscow was ready to spend some savings from disarmament and a more efficient economy "to satisfy humanitarian and food needs of developing countries."

This year the US & USSR are to carry out joint nuclear tests after visiting each others' test sites.

Mr Gorbachev's *perestroika* (reconstruction) program calls for decentralized decision-making, increased scope for market incentives, partially decontrolled prices and a smaller bureaucracy. Time will tell.

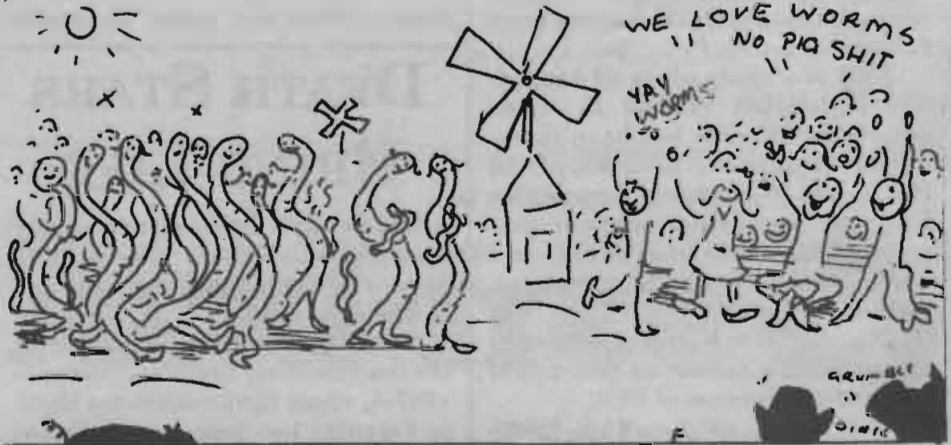
Worms Can Save Holland

Hundreds of tonnes of manure are being transported back and forth across Holland while local authorities dispute where to dump it. 15 million pigs produce almost 80 million tonnes of dung yearly and only half can be re-used as fertilizer.

Ammonia from pig and cattle dung causes 60% of Holland's acid rain - over half of Holland's trees are irreparably damaged and another 35% are sick - and nitrates from manure leaching into waterways have caused uncontrollable algal growth, rendering 15% of Holland's water undrinkable.

Disposal problems make methane power generation infeasible as well. A possible solution to the pig dung problem is offered by earthworm farming. A simple worm plot occupying an average suburban backyard will consume 25 tonnes of pig manure a month, leaving rich soil behind.

In Australia, the demand for worm manure vastly exceeds supply. There are only 30 worm farms, each generating a modest income, scattered across Australia. Worm casings are a vital component of soil regeneration - healthy worms mean healthy soil.



WWII CONTINUES

The Soviet Union and Japan failed to reach agreement on the wording of a treaty that would mark the end of World War II late last year. However, the two countries agreed to work towards closer relations at a top-level meeting which lasted two days in November.

COST OF THE CRASH

Investors across the world lost over \$US1.7 trillion (\$A2.4 trillion) in the world stock market crash of October.

According to Salomon Brothers, a leading US investment bank, 40% of this loss was from the US stock market. Australia accounted for 5% of the total loss, or \$US5 billion, the fourth largest fall.

Tweed Weed Blockade

Residents of Byrrell Creek, near Murwillumbah, blocked a bridge to stop a weed-spraying team entering their valley late last year, claiming that the use of 2,4-D on the noxious weed groundsel had caused widespread illness in the valley. Spokesperson Mary Peacock said residents had been hospitalised since the spraying on council land began three months earlier.

More than fifty local people held back the weedicide tanker for an hour until threatened with arrest. They continued their protest outside Tweed Shire Council at Murwillumbah until met by councillors and staff.

"We are even willing to go out and cut the weed ourselves if they stop the toxic spraying," Ms Peacock said.

Fungus Cleans Up

Certain fungi (toadstools, bracket fungi, puffballs etc) break down a wide range of chemicals, including organochlorines used in insecticides.

One of the chemical mechanisms that allows them to cause white rot in timber may now be used to fight chemical residues.

Strains of the fungi could even be bred to attack specific compounds, according to Professor John Waid from the Department of Microbiology at Melbourne's La Trobe University.

He said that fungi occur naturally, don't need genetic modification or engineering and could be safely introduced into contaminated environments, being easily eliminated after they clean up an area biologically.



AIDS disinformation is rife. While the World Health Organisation (WHO) says there were 73,670 AIDS-positive cases worldwide at the end of 1987 (a 40% rise last year), the *London Sunday Times* and other mainstream media are claiming there are 2.5 million cases in Zambia alone, with over 50,000 deaths there already - but no sources have been cited for these figures.

AIDS for Africa

Most of Africa has an equal proportion of men to women carriers and a growing number of babies are born infected.

In South Africa however, AIDS reports were confined mainly to whites - claiming sixty lives among homosexuals, intravenous drug users and hæmophiliacs according to the WHO. The Botha government has ordered mandatory AIDS screening for all foreigners seeking work in South Africa and Health Minister Dr Willie van Niekirk has warned that all foreigners with AIDS will be expelled and South African sufferers isolated.

Recent tests by the Chamber of Mines on workers have turned up about 1,000 positive cases. Most mine workers are 'migrants' forced to regularly travel huge distances from their 'homelands' to the mines.

Why the disparity between African Negro and general world figures? Studies have shown that the spread of AIDS in Africa has followed immunization programs in which entire villages are commonly injected using one needle - dropped in a bucket of water for 'sterilization'. This alone could account for the rapid 'heterosexual' spread of AIDS in

Truth Shrouded in Hysteria

Africa; and in Australia there have been no definitely confirmed cases of heterosexual AIDS transmission!

Debunking AIDS

Australia has had only 681 AIDS-positive cases (from a population of over 16 million - only .0042%) since reporting began in 1979.

Since AIDS testing is only 85% accurate, 15% of those diagnosed as healthy are in fact infected and are not given a second test. Furthermore, 15% of people who don't have AIDS are told they're infected after their first test. When given their second test, 15% of these - 2.25% - are falsely told that they definitely have the retrovirus.

Racist Disease

Another recent study by geneticists has shown that Negroes are more susceptible to AIDS than other groups. Human beings have three major 'G-factors', or genetic factors, which can be used via new DNA mapping procedures to show (among other things) a person's racial history. AIDS has been shown to infect the G-factor group which characterises most Negroes more easily than any other group.

Immune Response

There is growing recognition, backed by now-considerable laboratory evidence, that many of those who have AIDS were probably suffering from a diminished ability to fight off disease before they

became infected with the retrovirus. Researchers have found that many homosexual men - who account for two-thirds of Americans with AIDS - have long histories of low-grade infections that overload the body's immune system. Extensive treatment with antibiotics has been linked with AIDS susceptibility as well.

The other groups most at risk - heroin users, hæmophiliacs and hospital patients who received blood before 1985 - share some of the same infections, and each group has its own unique set of "host-factors" or "co-factor" disorders.

The "co-factor" theory challenges the widely-held assumption that the only thing the AIDS "risk groups" have in common is being exposed to the virus in ways most likely to cause infection.

Researches are now recognising that for healthy men and women, infection may not result in death or even illness. Recent studies show that frequency of intercourse is NOT a factor in contracting AIDS.

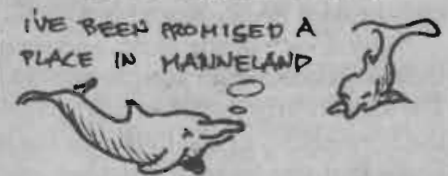
"I believe there are people who have encountered the virus and successfully fought it off," says Miss Susanna Cunningham-Rundles, an associate professor of immunology at the Cornell University centre in New York.

Some patients have cured themselves completely - with no sign of AIDS remaining in their system - and researchers are at a loss to otherwise explain how many people fail to develop any symptoms after AIDS is detected in their bloodstreams =

NEW BUSH SCHOOL

Sydney's Scots College has a plan to arrest "moral decay" of its students by isolating them in natural surroundings for a year. The school has bought 120 hectares of land at Kangaroo Valley and begun constructing cabins that will house 180 Year 9 students. In addition to the regular school curriculum, the boys will prepare food, collect firewood, hike and abseil. The isolated camp will give all-round supervision to the Presbyterian school, will prevent relations with the opposite sex, and interference by parents. Headmaster, Graeme Renney developed the plan out of concern that his pupils were being influenced by a society in which the Church has lost all its impact.

DOLPHINS HUNT MINES IN PERSIAN GULF



The US Navy has sent five dolphins to their Middle East Force in the Persian Gulf, to assist them in detecting underwater mines. The dolphins are trained to spot only the type of mine deployed by Iran, but were not trained to attempt to detonate them, according to military sources who asked not to be identified.

Two of the dolphin team have died of bacterial infections.